

U.S. TO TAKE OVER ALL WIRE LINES JULY 31

Control Given Burleson of 23,000,000 Miles of Telegraph and Telephone.

THREE MEN TO ASSIST

Local Managements Will Remain Unchanged—Cables to Be Taken Later.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—President Wilson issued a proclamation to-day taking over for operation during the period of the war the 23,000,000 miles of telephone and telegraph wires in the United States. In the proclamation, issued under authority granted by Congress, control and operation of the telephone and telegraph lines are placed in the hands of the Postmaster-General. The wires will be taken over at midnight July 31.

Though full authority was given by Congress for taking over the cables, radio system and all other means of communication, including the foreign lines touching our shores, only the domestic telephone and telegraph lines are included in the proclamation. It is understood the President will take control of the cable lines as soon as all legal and other difficulties are cleared away.

Immediately after the issuance of the President's proclamation to-day Postmaster-General Burleson issued a statement in which he declared that the present management and operation would not be interfered with except to bring improvements that would result from unified control.

Postmaster-General personally will direct the wire service of the country. His first official action as Director-General of Wire Service was to issue an order No. 1, appointing Mr. J. C. M. Koons, Assistant Postmaster-General, as his first assistant.

They are John C. Koons, Assistant Postmaster-General, and Mr. J. C. M. Koons, Assistant Postmaster-General, who will be in charge of the wire service. Mr. Koons is a member of the Postmaster-General's committee on the wire service.

Each member of the committee with Mr. Burleson will head a division. Mr. Burleson stated that the committee would have charge of the Government management, operation and control of the telephone and telegraph lines. It would be necessary to divide its work to a certain extent and that Mr. Koons and the Postmaster-General would have charge of the administration and organization of the service.

The members of the committee, who are all in the Federal service, will not resign their present positions to give their time to wire control. The wire administration organization will be similar to that of the United States Department of the Interior. It will be in the Post Office Department Building here.

The President's proclamation follows closely the form of the proclamation taken over the railroads and the administrative organization will be in the Post Office Department Building here.

"Whereas it is deemed necessary for the national security and defense to take possession and control of all telegraph and telephone systems and to operate them in such manner as may be needed for or desirable:

"Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, do hereby, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the foregoing resolution, and by using of all other powers thereto me available, do hereby take possession and control of all telegraph and telephone systems and to operate them in such manner as may be needed for or desirable:

"I hereby declare that the supervision, possession, control and operation of such telegraph and telephone systems hereby by me undertaken shall be controlled by and through the Postmaster-General of the United States. Said Postmaster-General may perform the duties hereby and hereunder imposed upon him, so long and to such extent as he may deem necessary to determine, through the owners, managers, boards of directors, receivers, officers and employees of such telegraph and telephone systems.

"Until and except so far as said Postmaster-General shall from time to time by general or special orders otherwise provide, the owners, managers, boards of directors, receivers, officers and employees of the various telegraph and telephone systems shall continue to operate them in the usual and ordinary course of the business of said systems, in the names of their respective companies, associations, organizations, owners, or managers, as the case may be.

"Regular dividends heretofore declared, and maturing interest upon bonds, debentures and other obligations, may be paid by the owners of such securities, and interest may continue to be paid until and unless the said Postmaster-General shall from time to time, by general or special orders otherwise determine, and subject to the approval of said Postmaster-General, the various telegraph and telephone systems may continue to operate and arrange for the payment and extension of maturing obligations.

"Mr. Burleson made it plain, however, that there will be no situation respecting the small telephone companies, particularly the so-called farmers' lines, as there was with regard to the short line railroads, some of which were kept under Government control and some of which were placed outside. All wire lines are definitely taken over. The Postmaster-General said that operation and control of the farmers' lines will be interfered with only for the purpose of facilitating their connections with the longer lines.

"Under Government control all independent companies are to be part of one system and they will be placed under the same management and control. It will have at least a possibility of connection with any other telephone in the United States.

"It will be the purpose of the department," Mr. Burleson said, "to broaden the use of the service at the least cost to the people, keeping in mind that a high degree of efficiency must be maintained."

The Post Office Department is prepared to proceed slowly in exercise of the small telephone companies, particularly the so-called farmers' lines, as there was with regard to the short line railroads, some of which were kept under Government control and some of which were placed outside. All wire lines are definitely taken over. The Postmaster-General said that operation and control of the farmers' lines will be interfered with only for the purpose of facilitating their connections with the longer lines.

Mr. Burleson was asked to-day about the attitude of labor and his purpose as to rates for wire messages.

"The rates for messages will not be interfered with at all," he said. "The rates for messages will not be interfered with at all."

WILD REPORTS GAIN HEADWAY ON RHINE

Germany Seeks Originators of Defeat Rumors and Literature.

POLICE CARRY DENIALS

Newspapers Offer Varied Excesses for Feck's Success on Two Fronts.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from London Times.

Cologne, Dusseldorf and other towns near the Belgian frontier are to the effect that a rigorous search has been instituted by the German authorities for defeatist literature and also for the spreaders of bad reports on the western front.

In this district alarming reports are current regarding "the German Sedan," but the police and gendarmes have issued instructions to spread the statement that these reports were brought into Germany by the agents of the Entente.

The police also are searching for the persons who spread the report of the death of Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

AMSTERDAM, July 23.—The German public is being told by all the German military experts that the French and American "ambitious attempt to break through" which, in Baron von Ardenne's words, "might have caused a decisive change in the military situation on the west front," has failed because of the famous German system of an elastic defense.

It is explained that the enemy only obtained initial successes, due to the fact that Gen. von Boehm's right flank of twenty-five miles was not strongly held and his main attack lay on the eastern flank. Significant, however, is Baron von Ardenne's admission that Chateau Thierry and Soissons were the two critical points in the German defense and that the former has been lost to the foe, "who was aided by not inconsiderable American auxiliary forces."

Points to U. S. Losses. The Wolf Bureau's correspondent at the front does not fail to dwell on the "excessively severe" losses suffered by the Germans. He says that the losses were due to the Americans being mixed for the first time with "savages" instead of with white French troops as heretofore. He says: "At many points the day after yesterday the German dead lie in front of our positions."

The Cologne Gazette's war correspondent says that never before had the German front line been so seriously threatened. He adds, "The present state of hostile forces, as the result of the mental and physical conflict of the German front line, is a conflict of mental and physical energy. There is no room for platitudes. Now begins the final phase of the war."

Challenged to Best Effort. He asks the people at home "to follow the development of this stupendous struggle with the gravest attention, for every day the German dead lie in front of our very utmost efforts."

Other writers extol the German people to remember Von Hindenburg's appeal for victory and his declaration that the battle plans must be allowed time to mature. A favorite assertion is that the enemy forces have been sensibly weakened by the loss of Chateau Thierry and Soissons. "The German front line," it is said, "will not be broken by the initiative to be wrested from their hands."

600 AUSTRIANS CAPTURED. French and Italians Continue Advance in Albania.

PARIS, July 23.—French and Italian troops have continued their advance in Albania. The Italian troops have pressed forward along the crest of Mali Sirova and have taken Hill 900. Heights on the left bank of the River of Horta have been occupied by the French. The War Office states that the fighting in the east to-day says:

FRANCE.—In Albania our troops continued their attacks yesterday and after heavy hand to hand fighting drove the Austrians from all their positions south of the Horta River. In the course of the day we captured 600 prisoners, including six officers and twelve machine guns. On our left, on the west bank of the Devoli, Italian troops captured Hill 900.

ITALY.—The Italian troops are pushing along the crest of Mali Sirova in Albania and have captured Hill 900. Further to the east French paratroopers have taken the heights on the left bank of the River Horta. Our advanced posts repulsed several attacks at the Kuci Ridge. Prisoners and machine guns were captured.

GERMANISM SPLITS THE BURNHAM HOME

Man Must Support Wife, but Uncle Sam May Inquire.

A short chronicle of the recent family history of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Burnham was laid face up on the judicial table at Oyster Bay, L. I., yesterday.

Justice of the Peace Robert W. Duval, Mrs. Burnham precipitated the argument by charging that husband Benjamin failed equally in supporting his wife and their two children.

To which Mr. Burnham—ordinarily a patient, non-complaining disposition—made specific reply:

"That his wife was pro-German; that American flag he put up in and outside his home was destroyed; that a German flag was in Mrs. Burnham's home; that too ill to get out of bed, he asked his wife for medicine and she said she would get it for him if he would sympathize with Germany; that a picture of President Wilson and Lafayette was destroyed in their home; that Mrs. Burnham said the German 'Crown Prince' ought to be walking up Broadway dragging Wilson behind him."

Catching his breath, Mr. Burnham interrupted further that on the occasion of the third Liberty Loan celebration at Oyster Bay his wife took the Burnham children for a picnic in the woods so that they could participate in the parade and that when he couldn't stand it any longer he had up and quit the house.

Frequently Mrs. Burnham interrupted her husband's testimony to assure the Justice his story was untrue and to avow her loyalty to this country. One of the Burnham children was called, but he did not seem to understand the proceedings. So Justice Duval ordered the husband to pay Mrs. Burnham \$3 a week and said he would settle the loyalty issue in the case by sending the testimony of the husband to the Federal authorities.

Result of Operations on Engharpe Reported—British Die in Prison.

LONDON, July 23.—In the House of Commons to-night Lord Robert Cecil, Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said the operations on the Engharpe in March and April, 1918, had resulted in the capture of 10,000 men, of whom 7,500 are prisoners of war. Thirty guns and much other war materials were captured.

AMERICANS FIND THIERRY IN RUINS

Continued from First Page.

Chateau Thierry had been fitted up by the Germans with the chairs and furniture they had taken from the houses in the town.

Joseph Herbert, an elderly resident, told how he had got into the bad graces of the enemy by asking them, when they came, if they were Americans or Englishmen. In consequence of which they had put him out of his dwelling in the city and had made him live in Coteau, a suburb, giving him nothing to eat.

At night he crawled from the garden, pulling up vegetables, and one night he exploded a shell, killing a cow, and he got some fresh meat.

A woman with a child four years old said that the first American she had seen was a wounded soldier who went through the city several weeks ago with some other prisoners. She said that she gave him a drink of water and was slapped before he could say good-bye to her.

Ousted Because He Had Cellar. A bearded man, 70 years old, said that the Germans had put him out of his house because he had a good cellar in which to hide. At night for weeks he had wandered through the streets, dodging the shells. He said that the inhabitants had been treated likewise or had been killed because they had no protection.

Discussed about the conduct of the Germans, he said that they were more brutal during their stay in the place than they were three and a half years before, but he did not give evidence of the Germans having committed atrocities, such as were reported from Belgium at that time. German signs were everywhere in the streets of the town.

The towns of Torcy and Belleau, outside of Chateau Thierry, were almost inaccessible, the streets being filled with ruins, buildings and trees. The Germans had been treated likewise or had been killed because they had no protection.

In the vineyards the vines had been razed by shell fire, but the figs of Christ hanging upon the cross was not even touched. It stood alone from the huge pile of brick and mortar.

Vineyards for champagne had been planted in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry, but the cultivation of grapes in this locality is ended for many years to come. Whole forests have been reduced to toothpicks. Such is the sad state of the town.

SATISFACTORY, SAYS BAKER. No Late Word From Pershing, but Taking More Territory.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The progress of the Franco-American offensive continues "entirely satisfactory," Secretary of War Baker intimated in a statement, he added, has nothing from Gen. Pershing or his staff later than the Associated Press dispatches.

"The progress of the offensive is more satisfactory every day and the progress made is entirely satisfactory," said he.

Has Non-Retreating Soldier. Dane Invents Automatic Fighter to Take Place of Men.

By the Associated Press. LONDON, July 23.—An "automatic soldier" in the line of developments in the weapons of war.

A Danish engineer has recently taken out a patent for an apparatus to which he has given the name of "automatic soldier." It is a small cylinder, the whole being sunk into the ground vertically. By means of a mechanism operated by wires, the cylinder rises to a height of eight inches from the ground and simultaneously an automatic rifle mounted on top of it is fired. It is capable of firing 400 shots in any given direction.

This "automatic soldier" can be controlled from a central position some four or five miles behind the line of defense, according to the inventor. It may be seen by the enemy only when they rise from the ground.

From trials already made it has been shown, so it is reported, that a few hundred of these little soldiers can easily defend a position against infantry attacks, however numerous the opposing force may be. The cost of each "automatic soldier" is estimated at 100,000 shots without finching and never retreat.

20 YEARS FOR RICH TRAITOR. Landing Man Fined \$10,000 Also for Assaulting United States.

DETROIT, July 23.—William Powell of Lansing was sentenced to the Federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth for a term of twenty years and fined \$10,000 by Judge Tuttle in Federal Court to-day after a jury had found Powell guilty of the charge of violating the espionage act.

Powell, who is a wealthy painter and contractor, is alleged to have made remarks derogatory to the Government and to have assailed the Administration's war policy.

LAUDS MEDICAL CONFERENCE. London "Times" Seen Great Gain From Chicago Meeting.

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LONDON, July 23.—Commenting on the cordial reception at the Chicago conference of the British medical mission and urging a further understanding and sympathy of the two countries medically, the Times in an editorial article says:

"It is well in the great war against disease which is now in its opening stages that the two peoples should stand side by side. American medicine has much to give and the same can be said of our own profession. The time is opportune for the cultivation of a closer relationship, the creation of new facilities for study, the endowment of research fellowships on both sides of the Atlantic and the interchange of scientific papers and schemes."

WILSON IS QUOTED IN DILLON MOTION

Irish Leader Cites President's Mount Vernon Speech.

DISCARD OF BRISTOL PLANES IS ORDERED

Caproni, S. E. 5 and De Havilland Four to Be Produced Rapidly.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Production in the United States of Bristol type of fighting planes has been discontinued after tests showing that the machine is not of military value, the Bureau of Aircraft Production of the War Department announced to-night.

Every effort is made, said a statement issued by the bureau, to put into production the S. E. 5 and Caproni types of planes. These will be produced by the Curtiss company, which had charge of the production of the Bristol model.

Production of the De Havilland Four, based upon a point, the bureau statement said, where the discontinuance of the Bristol type will not decrease the number of planes being sent to France.

Speed Is Insignificant. The Bristol type of plane, as being produced in this country, was an adaptation of the British model with a twelve cylinder Liberty motor. Tests of the plane, said the bureau announcement, have demonstrated that the machine is overpowered, lacks maneuvering ability and has insufficient speed for military purposes.

Engine or are in process of construction, it was said, but with what success cannot be determined at present. The amount of money expended in conducting the experiment is being calculated by the War Department.

Members of the Senate Military Subcommittee, who investigated the aircraft program, in announcing a few days ago that their report is now being drafted, said their inquiry developed that 1,200 training planes, costing \$6,000,000, have been ordered by the War Department for use. It was not disclosed whether these planes were the Bristol model.

Has No Military Value. The statement issued by the Bureau of Aircraft Production follows:

"Early last year, it was decided, when a demand for two-seater fighters was great, to put into production the Curtiss company's adaptation of the Bristol fighter, an English battleplane fitted to a 12 cylinder Liberty motor. Recent flight tests have demonstrated that this machine is overpowered and not of military value, lacking maneuvering ability, and not having sufficient speed for war purposes."

"Inasmuch as the De Havilland four is in production and meets the requirement, and can be produced as fast as engines can be supplied, so that there will be no decrease in the number of planes going overseas, the Bureau of Aircraft Production is compelled to take the position that the country will be best served by discontinuing Bristol production."

"Every effort is being made to put into production quickly at the Curtiss company the S. E. 5 and the Caproni. Both planes are well known and are not experimental in any way. The Bureau of aircraft production hopes to be able in the near future to reemploy the number of planes which they point out as 'off the order' in the process of production."

The exact expenditure on the experiment is now being calculated.

WARDEN DERRICK RESIGNS. Will Be Deputy Commissioner of Correction in New Jersey.

Calvin S. Derrick, warden of the Westchester county penitentiary, widely known for his advocacy of self-government for prisoners, has resigned his post to take effect August 1 and will accept an appointment as deputy under Burdette G. Lewis, Commissioner of Correction and Correction for New Jersey.

Mr. Derrick came East from the Preston School of Industry in California, became prominent in prison reform circles for his work at the George Junior Republic and as warden of Sing Sing prison from November to the latter part of December, 1916. He was appointed to his present position in March, 1917.

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ALLIES WILL AID MURMAN REGION

Equipment for Russian Forces Pledged in Compact With Defence Council.

CHINA JOINS IN PLAN

Cabinet Officials Decide on Participating in Siberian Move.

LONDON, July 23.—A Russian wireless message gives the text of an agreement between the representatives of Great Britain, the United States, France and the Murman Regional Council for the defence of the Murman region against the Powers of the German coalition.

The Russian forces will be under a command appointed by the council, but admission of Russian volunteers into the allied forces will be permitted, according to this message.

The three Entente Powers are to provide the Russian command with the necessary help in equipment, supplies, transport and instruction for the Russian armed forces. They agree not to interfere in the home affairs of the region.

In view of the impossibility of importing necessary food from Russia the three Powers promise as far as possible to secure food for the whole population of the region, the distribution of which will be carried out by trustworthy Russian troops.

They undertake further to secure the importation of necessary manufactured goods and material for construction work and other purposes, the expense to be defrayed by the respective Powers, whose representatives disclaim any purpose of conquest and declare "the only object of the agreement is to guard the Murman region for a great United Russia."

The agreement, it is stated, was sanctioned by the Murman Regional Council on July 7 and was approved by its general assembly without opposition.

According to the Daily Mail's Telegram correspondent, telegraphing last Friday, China will participate in the intervention in Siberia. The correspondent says this decision was taken July 18 at a meeting of Cabinet officials.

A Reuters dispatch from Tokyo dated July 19 says that a special session of the Privy Council, presided over by the Emperor, met that day to consider the Siberian question and passed the Government measure in the premises.

A dispatch to the Associated Press from Tokyo July 19 said Gen. Kato, Japan's foreign minister, had received the Japanese Government's reply to the proposal made by the United States relative to Entente Allied intervention in Siberia. The dispatch added that it was understood the Japanese Emperor would accept the American proposal in every particular.

HORVATH REFUSES TO RETIRE. Anti-Bolshevik General Persists in Siberian Dictatorship.

By the Associated Press. PRAGUE, July 20 (delayed).—Gen. Horvath, the anti-Bolshevik commander in Siberia, has declined to withdraw his proclamation of a dictatorship, as the allied legations had requested him to do, but appears to have arrived at an amicable agreement with Gen. Dvornik, commander of the Czech-Slovak, and is reinforcing Dvornik to the extent of a detachment of Kailofsky's Cossacks with artillery.

Horvath has received deputies of the consulate at Vladivostok and of the Czech National Council and agreed to facilitate the importation of foodstuffs from Manchuria.

SOLDIERS TO GIVE IRVING BERLIN SHOW "Yip Yip Yaphank" at Century Week of Aug. 19.

Special Despatch to The Sun. CANNON, N. Y., July 23.—"Yip Yip Yaphank," a military revue extravaganza, written and composed by Sergeant Irving Berlin, will be given at the Century Theatre, New York, Monday, August 19, and continue for 2 weeks. It is announced by official order of Major-General Bell's headquarters.

Professional actors now wearing olive drab, 150 of them, will participate, and the entire production will be by soldiers and largely about soldiers, with an enlisted men's orchestra and enlisted men's producing brains back of the entire piece.

"Yip Yip" has three acts and about a dozen scenes. There are a number of striking novelties, including a chorus of a score of lady doughboys.

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